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- Board considers CHS fitness expansion

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**From the Lewiston Tribune (password required)**

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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**Board considers CHS fitness expansion**

Posted: Monday, Jun 02, 2008 - 10:51:15 pm PDT

Email this story Printer friendly version By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

Plan calls to build facility without taxpayer dollars

COEUR d'ALENE -- A plan to expand fitness space at Coeur d'Alene High School and a possible use for the vacant Hayden Lake Elementary School were considered by district trustees at Monday's school board meeting in Coeur d'Alene.

A preliminary blueprint for a proposed Viking Athletic Center -- including a 6,000-square-foot multipurpose room with moveable batting cages and portable mounds -- and a plan to build it without using taxpayers' dollars was presented by a group of supporters connected with CHS.

"The booster club is totally behind it," said Rick Rasmussen, a CHS alum and booster club coordinator.

Principal Randy Russell said the building is planned for the area south of the campus off Jordan Court where parking lot space will be turned into useable space for students.

Russell said the project will expand the weight room, add more classroom space and provide an indoor training area.

District maintenance head Bryan Martin said the parking space impacted is the staff lot that is underutilized by school employees anyway.

Martin said the only cost he foresees for the district is his time to act as project manager.

"On behalf of the booster club, I will be taking care of the payment of the bills and the collection of money and payments to the contractors," said Rasmussen, who is an accountant.

Rasmussen said the booster club will be reaching out to alumni seeking donations to pay for the project.

Project supporter Craig Hunter told trustees that volunteers have been working on the plan organizing trade outs of materials and labor to get the job done.

Miller Stauffer Architects, a Coeur d'Alene design firm, has donated the architectural work, Hunter said.

Kris Pereira, president of Ginno Construction, a local contractor known for school building projects, said he is offering construction services.

"We've probably raised over \$100,000 in material and labor already," Pereira said.

Other area contractors, including Contractors Northwest and Polin & Young have gotten behind the project also, Pereira said.

"We want to give back to the school district," Pereira said.

He told trustees the cost to construct a building like this under normal circumstances could be as much as \$900,000, but he expects, through cash donations and volunteered services, to see the job done for about \$500,000.

Pereira said everyone involved in the project is anxious to get started but are waiting for the green light from the board.

Trustees are expected to make a formal decision at their June 9 special meeting.

Assistant superintendent and soon-to-be district schools chief Hazel Bauman said public input will be solicited through the district's Web site.

An idea for the empty Hayden Lake Elementary School was proposed to the trustees by Robyn Ancker on behalf of the Panhandle Autism Society (PAS).

Ancker, a local emergency room physician and parent of a child in the district with an autism spectrum disorder, asked trustees to consider donating use of the vacant school building to EPIC Academy, a new charter school being formed by the Panhandle Autism Society where Ancker sits on the board.

The charter school, Ancker said, will be focused on educating children with autism spectrum disorders but will not be exclusive.

"There may be a lot of children in the area who find the traditional school environment difficult," Ancker said.

The Panhandle Autism Society, a nonprofit that provides information, referrals and support for families and individuals dealing with autism has offered an educational alternative for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Ancker said PAS's educational program has been a successful pilot they hope to expand by becoming a charter school.

"We are through the first stages of the review process," Ancker said "We were hoping to be opening this fall, but we are on track to open as a charter school in 2009."

The school, now located on Third Street in Post Falls, serves ten students who pay \$300 per month to attend.

When the school becomes a charter, there will be no tuition charged.

Bauman said she would be interested in having additional discussions with PAS to explore the situation although she said Hayden Lake Elementary could be put back into use by the district in a year.

It was trustees' first regular meeting since district voters failed to approve a \$31 million school facility levy May 20 that would have paid to build a new Lakes Middle School and a new elementary school.

Although discussions about the failed levy were not on the agenda, Bauman announced the first community forum will be held June 10 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Midtown Meeting Center.

#### FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

**No new education news stories posted online.**

#### FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **School kids help with Backyard Harvest**

Lewiston students plant seeds that will grow into donated vegetables

By David Cole

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Second-grade students from McSorley Elementary School plant seeds in the Osborn Community Garden section of Lewiston's Modie Park to help provide fresh vegetables for Backyard Harvest, which will distribute the produce to needy families in the region.

While kids may not always be eager to eat their vegetables, some Lewiston elementary school youngsters are doing their part to make sure less fortunate people in the region get them.

Students at McSorley Elementary School soaked up the sun and seized the opportunity to plant some vegetables during a recent field trip to Modie Park in Lewiston.

Karen Schmidt, project coordinator for Backyard Harvest in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley, said the produce will go to senior citizen nutrition programs, soup kitchens and food banks. Backyard Harvest, a program that started in Moscow and spread to the valley, formed as a way to link local gardeners to food banks and meal programs.

Schmidt said she'd like to have more students gardening next year.

Some of the 39 McSorley students, from teachers Judy Lundgren's and Julianne McKinney's second-grade classes, said pulling weeds was their favorite part of the gardening experience.

The students also had fun building up some mounds of soil, digging moats, planting starts and watering on a terrace in the park's fertile Osborn Community Garden.

They planted cucumbers, tomatoes, pumpkins and more. This fall, they plan to return, as third-graders, to harvest the ripe goodies.

Lundgren was impressed with the students' work ethic.

"I wish I had these kids to weed my garden," she said.

Through the process, the students learned all it takes is seeds, soil, water, sunlight and a little planning to help fellow community members who are in need. The kids studied and learned about the different fruits, vegetables and plants found in the garden - like gourds and shallots. And they learned how to plant them.

"We're planting some food for the poor people," said 8-year-old Ruby Moree. "It's really sad that some people don't have a home."

While describing what he learned about gardening, 8-year-old Tyler Curry also offered some youthful wisdom and general philosophical perspective.

"When you plant seeds you can't have them grow around weeds or they won't grow," Curry said.

To add another element of fun, Schmidt helped the students design a sunflower hut. In a wide circle, the students buried seeds, which will grow into tall sunflower stems that will form the hut's walls. The heads of the sunflowers will be woven together to create a roof.

"It will attract birds. It's an enhancement to the garden," said Schmidt, who's a volunteer at Osborn. "And it's something for the kids to do and utilize when they come to the garden."

Weeks earlier, Schmidt visited the classes, helping them plant seeds for their starts and telling them about Backyard Harvest.

In 2006 and 2007 combined, Schmidt told the two classes, Backyard Harvest picked up and delivered to various programs 18,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"It was an astronomical amount to the kids," McKinney said. "They were excited to donate. It's been fun for them to know they are helping other people - the elderly and less fortunate."

Along with a boost from the McSorley students, and other contributors, Backyard Harvest aims this summer to pick up and deliver a total of 20,000 pounds of produce for 20 different area programs, Schmidt said.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No new education news stories posted online.**

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

**No new education news stories posted online.**

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

**Mountain Cove senior celebrates graduation, reflects on her loss**

Life changed for Rhiannon Perryman after her parents died in a car crash when she was 14

Chris Butler/Idaho Statesman

Rhiannon Perryman, whose parents were killed in a car accident four years ago, will graduate from Mountain Cove High School on Tuesday. Perryman works at a Boise Montessori school and wants to get a degree in psychology at Boise State University. Above she pushes one of the children on a swing at the school.

High school graduations

It is high school graduation time in the Treasure Valley. Here is a list of schools and the dates of their commencements. Lists of graduates will be posted at [IdahoStatesman.com/Classof2008](http://IdahoStatesman.com/Classof2008) as soon as the information is provided by the schools.

Boise School District

Boise: May 27 Borah: May 28 Capital: May 29 Timberline: May 30 Mountain Cove: June 3  
Caldwell School District

Caldwell: June 6 Canyon Springs Alternative: May 30  
Kuna School District

Kuna High: May 30  
Meridian School District

Centennial: June 3 Central Academy: May 29 Eagle High: June 2 Medical Arts Charter: May 31  
Meridian: May 31 Meridian Technical Charter: June 3 Mountain View: May 31 Eagle Academy:  
May 29 Meridian Academy: May 28  
Middleton School District

Middleton: May 27  
Nampa School District

Nampa: May 28 Columbia: May30 Skyview: May 28 Ridgeline: June 3 Vallivue School District  
Vallivue: May 24  
Private schools

Bishop Kelly, May 25 Cole Valley Christian, May 25 Gem State Academy, June 1 Nampa  
Christian School, May 26 Riverstone International School, May 22 Sheridan Academy, June 5  
**ABOUT MOUNTAIN COVE'S GRADUATION**

Mountain Cove will hold its last graduation at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Capital High School  
auditorium. Next year, Mountain Cove's students will attend the new Frank Church alternative  
high school near school district headquarters on Victory Road in West Boise.

BY ANNE WALLACE ALLEN - aallen@idahostatesman.com

Edition Date: 06/03/08

Rhiannon Perryman's been a rodeo princess and a varsity basketball player.

She's also been practically homeless.

On Tuesday, the Boise 18-year-old will be a high school graduate.

Perryman and 78 others from Mountain Cove High School, the Boise School District's  
alternative program, are among the area's graduating classes this spring.

The ceremony Tuesday night will be hard for Perryman because her parents won't be there to see  
it. They were killed in a car accident four years ago, leaving Perryman to rely on friends and  
relatives before finding her way to some self-sufficiency.

"I know I'm going to cry," said Perryman. "I get really upset that they're not there to share that  
with me.

"It'll be good though," added Perryman, who has learned over the past four years not to dwell on  
her sadness. "I know I'm going to bawl, but it will be cool."

The death of her parents forced Perryman to grow up fast.

"You definitely notice a maturity in her that you don't see in all kids," said Summer Ash, her  
speech and writing teacher at Mountain Cove.

Perryman was born near Rochester, N.Y., but moved to the Preston area with her parents and two  
older brothers when she was 5. There, she said, she grew up in a tight-knit family that took  
weekend camping trips and had 14 horses. She rode horses as much as she could and won reining  
and rodeo princess competitions.

When Perryman was 14, her parents decided to move back to upstate New York to be closer to  
family. On the trip east, the family truck blew a front tire, rolled several times and ejected all  
four occupants.

Perryman's parents were killed instantly. Her brother Jon Perryman suffered serious head injuries. Perryman herself was badly cut, scraped and bruised.

"I woke up right after I flew out the window," said Perryman. "I saw people from the road running to help me. I saw the paramedics come. I remember everything. I kept asking where my parents were, and everyone kept telling me everything was OK."

After the funeral, Rhiannon and Jon Perryman stayed with family friends for most of Rhiannon Perryman's freshman year in high school. The family was kind to her, but "they weren't my family. I thought it was horrible," she said. "My parents had just died, and I was all upset and going crazy."

So she moved in with a different family, living in Utah for a while. Eventually, she was sent to Potter, N.Y., to live with her grandmother. She wasn't old enough to drive, and the school was an hourlong bus ride away. She then moved in with one of her mother's relatives.

"It was not a good time in my life," said Perryman.

At 16, Perryman moved to Boise to live with her brother. She got a full-time job as a waitress and attended Timberline High School. But she and her brother were too young to be on their own. They started drinking every night with their neighbors, and soon a party was going on at their apartment most of the time.

"A new bad thing happened every night," she said. "A lot of our stuff was stolen or broken."

Perryman dropped out of high school. She knew it wasn't what her parents would have wanted. But "at the same time, I think my mindset at that time was, well, I know they don't want me to do this, but I didn't want them to leave me. I'm in this situation because they're not here."

Last summer, the brother and sister were evicted. For a while, they stayed on friends' couches, saving money for another apartment.

Those were bad times, but the experiences had some value. Perryman decided the partying life wasn't for her.

As the 2007 school year approached, Perryman decided to go back to Timberline to talk to her guidance counselor, Kelly Gonser. He had raised money at Christmas for Rhiannon and Jon Perryman and one month had helped them with their rent. He also helped Rhiannon Perryman figure out how to press ahead with her education.

He suggested Mountain Cove, the district's nontraditional high school for teens who aren't thriving in regular high schools.

Perryman enrolled and did well. She won an art award and the Mayor's Youth Award, given annually to students who have overcome adversity.



And at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Perryman will receive her diploma. She'll be in the company of others who had to grow up quickly, sometimes without any parental support.

She's working full-time at a Boise Montessori school and wants to get a degree in psychology at Boise State University. She's won the admiration of those who have worked with her.

"She's on her own, trying to do it all on her own. She's the type of child any parent would want to have," said Ann Marie Waibel, Perryman's guidance counselor at Mountain Cove.

Perryman stays positive, but she sometimes thinks about the way things might have been if her mother hadn't died. She thinks her mother would have helped her steer clear of a bad relationship with an ex-boyfriend. She occasionally dwells on the fact that most other kids likely had someone at home to help with school.

Her parents are gone, but Perryman appreciates all they did.

"My parents were very good parents," she said. "They raised us very well. We were respectful, and we knew how to survive."

Anne Wallace Allen: 377-6433

## **Teens' anti-drug video wins an award for its positive message**

Darin Oswald

Tanner Brundy, 14, left, Garrett Munson, 14, and Cassie Tanner, 13, were among the classmates at Pathways Middle School in Meridian who recently won first place in a youth film festival for their three-minute video "Believe."

Video: Pathways Middle School's 'Believe'

BY BILL ROBERTS - broberts@idahostatesman.com

Edition Date: 06/03/08

It took about 90 minutes to make and was more or less a happy accident, but when it was done, a handful of students at Pathways Middle School in Meridian had created a three-minute film about peer pressure and drugs that is drawing attention across the state.

The film, titled "Believe," was named the top film out of four done by Idaho young people at an annual statewide conference on substance abuse earlier this spring.

More than that, schools around Idaho now want to show it to their students.

"I've had my friends say '(It) really taught me something,' " said Cassie Tanner, 13, a seventh-grader who worked on the movie.

Pathways' film, done by about 18 students in the drama class but featuring 125 kids in all, is about the choices students make.

Set to the rock song "Don't Stop Believin' " by Journey, the students leave a message that kids can believe in themselves and there are other kids in the world who have walked away from the same temptations: alcohol, meth, pot.

Twenty-nine percent of teens tried alcohol in the last month, the words read across the screen. But the kids point out the positive: 71 percent of them have not.

The project began without much planning. Garrett Munson, 14, was videotaped lip-syncing "Don't Stop Believin'."

The kids liked what they saw and added to it.

Within 90 minutes they had put together the film and its message.

"Believe in yourself and think about what you do before you do it," Tanner said.

The project was entered in an inaugural film festival that was part of a statewide substance-abuse conference put on by International Training Associates, a nonprofit organization that works in prevention fields.

But none of the kids thought the film would go anywhere. "If we get third, I'll be in shock," Munson said.

Instead, the film got a standing ovations from 1,000 people attending the conference and the top award.

Now, Pathways is getting calls from schools that want to show the film to their students.

Sawtooth Middle School, for example, is planning to show the film as part of its character education when school resumes in the fall.

"(It's) very much kids who look just like them and act just like them," said Principal David Moser.

Bill Roberts: 377-6408

## **Idaho adopts program to bolster math scores**

- The Associated Press  
Edition Date: 06/02/08

The Idaho Department of Education has signed on with a new online program designed to help students statewide improve their math skills.

Tom Luna, state superintendent of public instruction, announced the new program Monday.

Luna says the department has signed a contract with Apangea Learning Inc., a Pittsburgh-based company, to provide math instruction and tutoring services to students struggling with the subject.

The company's program is called SmartHelp Math and is being used in schools in more than 20 states nationwide to supplement class work, help teach problem solving skills and motivate students to achieve in math.

Luna says the contract is the latest component to the Idaho Math Initiative, a legislative-approved project aimed at providing teachers more tools to bolster math achievement at all grade levels.

### **School's students and teachers garner numerous honors (Editorial)**

#### **READER'S VIEW TIMBERLINE HIGH SCHOOL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

BY DAVID ARCHIBALD-SEIFFER - Idaho Statesman

Edition Date: 06/03/08

From a small-scale start in 1998, through a decade of development, Timberline High School in Southeast Boise has gained city, state and national recognition for its scholastic accomplishments.

Opening with a faculty comprised of veteran district educators and accomplished new hires, and with Boise schools administrator Gary Slee as principal (succeeded by Betsy Story and, most recently, Rich Webb), Timberline has matured into a formidable academic and athletic leader.

With abundant coveted honors, ranging from Presidential and National Merit scholars, to national winners of Axa Achievement, Siemens Corporation, Coca-Cola, and Discover Card Tribute scholarships, Timberline's students have proven their scholastic worth in the classroom and beyond.

In addition, the school has been recognized twice as one of the top 1,200 secondary institutions in the nation (out of more than 25,000) by U.S. News & World Report.

A run of the numbers shows 76 National Merit award winners or qualifiers, eight Robert Byrd national scholars, 23 Pepsi scholarship recipients, 19 national AP scholars, six Make A Difference Award winners and 36 Boise Rotary Club scholars. This is in addition to hundreds of recipients of college merit scholarships and individual and group awards in academic disciplines ranging from debate to physics, chemistry, biology, language arts and foreign language.

Timberline graduates have been accepted at MIT, Stanford, Dartmouth, Northwestern, Washington University (in St. Louis), Vanderbilt, the Eastman School of Music and other top-tier colleges. Timberline's still young alumni can count among its ranks the mayor of Stanley, a researcher at MIT, a KTVB-TV newscaster and a Mayo Clinic intern.

On the artistic side, Timberline's orchestra members have been selected for All-State and All-Northwest ensembles and 30 have been selected for the Boise Philharmonic's Treasure Valley Youth Symphony. The choirs and bands have brought home trophies from performance festivals in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Portland and Newport. In addition to group achievements, individual performers have received honors from the Music Teachers National Association, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, the Yamaha Young Concert Artists competition and the Arts Recognition Talent Search.

Timberline's faculty is no less distinguished than its students, with awards and honors ranging from Boise School District Teacher of the Year (twice), the Defenders of Wildlife Award, a National Association of Biology Teachers Award, the Coca-Cola Distinguished Educator award, and positions with the College Board, the ACT, the National Council on Economic Education, the National Forensics League and other organizations.

Athletically, Timberline has won 10 state championships, 23 district championships, state athletes of the year in various sports, and 43 individual winners, finalists and record holders in track and field, tennis, golf and wrestling. Plus, the school's teams have won 13 state academic champion awards.

Timberline's spirit of community has been evident through numerous outreach and service projects, including the annual Senior Citizen Prom, contributions of more than 1,200 volumes to Operation Wishbook, and fundraisers for Ronald McDonald House, the Women's and Children's Alliance, the school's own Angel Fund and other organizations.

So, kudos to Timberline on its anniversary, with many more to follow.

David Archibald-Seiffer is a Language Arts educator at Timberline and the school's unofficial historian.

#### FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

##### **State adopts program to bolster math scores**

The Associated Press

BOISE - The Idaho Department of Education has signed on with a new online program designed to help students statewide improve their math skills.

Tom Luna, state superintendent of public instruction, announced the new program on Monday through Apangea Learning Inc., a Pittsburgh-based company founded in April, 2002. Services

from Apangea Learning Inc. will be used by students in fifth through eighth grade who are struggling with math.

The State Department of Education signed a one-year, \$1.3 million contract for two million hours of tutoring and online instruction for the 2008-09 school year, said Melissa McGrath, Idaho State Department of Education spokeswoman.

The company's program is called SmartHelp Math and is being used in schools in more than 20 states nationwide to supplement class work, help teach problem-solving skills and motivate student achievement in math.

Luna says the contract is the latest component to the Idaho Math Initiative, a project aimed at providing teachers more tools to bolster math achievement at all grade levels. The project received a \$3.9 million Legislative allocation for the 2008-09 school year, according to McGrath.

The state is also in a one-year, \$600,000 contract with PLATO, which provides remediation to students in kindergarten through 12th grade for math, reading and language usage. The annual PLATO agreement is managed by the Idaho State Department of Education, but was initiated in 2004 by the Idaho State Board of Education.

- Times-News writer Andrea Jackson contributed to this report.

### **No do-overs on Idaho public school accountability**

Bottom of the seventh inning and the home team getting beat? Don't bring in another relief pitcher; change the rules. That what's the Idaho State Board of Education wants to do with progress measurements between 2002 and 2006 under the federal No Child Left Behind law. In its place, the board wants the federal government to restart the NCLB clock, which sets the deadline to school to meet minimum proficiency standards.

The board's rationale: Idaho had poorly written education standards and statewide exams not aligned to what instructors were expected to teach.

We're skeptical.

Tests and standards used over the past several years were approved by the state board in 1999 and early in this decade. The system was revised in 2007.

Tom Luna, state schools superintendent, played an integral role in development of both the first standards and the exams, although he was not superintendent or a state board member at the time.

Despite concerns from critics, including then-state schools Superintendent Marilyn Howard, the board moved ahead with both testing and standards. The tests and standards were later found lacking in two independent reports in about 2005.

"The original (exam) was not a valid test, yet that test was commissioned by the State Board of Education to meet federal standards," Sen. John Goedde, a Coeur d'Alene Republican who chairs the Senate Education Committee, recently told the Idaho Statesman. "Our state board made another mistake, which is a tragedy.

"But to ask to restart the accountability process due to that error seems to defeat the concept of accountability altogether."

He's right. Accountability doesn't come in shades of gray: You're either accountable, or you're not.

No Child Left Behind is the centerpiece of President Bush's education program. It affects nearly every U.S. public school and requires all students be performing on grade level by 2014.

Since NCLB started, hundreds of Idaho schools have faced sanctions and diverted resources to help improve student performance in subjects such as reading, math and language. Some students are required to give up electives and attend classes to help them improve academic performance

NCLB has more flaws than a high-mileage Dodge Dart, but it's the law of the land. And unless Congress declines to renew it next year, Idaho can't prettify the rules.

Let's concentrate our resources instead on getting our schools up to snuff.

#### FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **Sho-Ban school going right way**

not many schools can say that every one of n math their students test this year improved . on a standardized But Sho-Ban School can, and, although officials say they still have far to go, they should be proud of what they are now.

The small school has had more than its share of turmoil in recent years. Five years ago, school leadership was in flux, teachers were walking out and students were protesting. Even recently, the school has faced instability.

many of the same problems other schools deal with, only at a higher level. Most of Sho-Ban's students live below the poverty line. Some don't receive good parental support and in 2006 officials reported that absenteeism was at 50 percent. Many of the students come to Sho-Ban because they have struggled in the public school system. And, like in many small schools, teachers are forced to find creative ways to deal with a lack of funding.

Despite the hurdles, there are plenty of things Sho-Ban School provides that others do not.

With 136 students in the entire school, teachers have the time to offer more personalized help. The school has instituted a credit-recovery program to give students who are in danger of not graduating a chance to catch up.

-Ban get opportunity to learn about their culture, and they get classes in traditional crafts, language, dance and history.

These aren't things that show up on ISAT tests, but they are an important and valuable asset of the school. The cultural lessons build community, pride and self-esteem. They help preserve family history.

Interim Administrator Philip Shortman said part of the school's recent step toward success is in part due to his strong and solid staff.

It's time to turn away from the instability of the past, let the dust settle around the school and give the staff time to help students continue to improve.

What the educational system in Fort Hall needs most right now is time to rebuild and to continue to help students achieve.

Shortman also made a smart move when he sent out a survey, asking the students and community what they wanted to see at school. Good communication is vital, especially in a close-knit community such as Fort Hall.

Students who attend school at Sho-Ban don't have to go there — they have options in Blackfoot or Pocatello, depending on where they live on the reservation. They chose Sho-Ban School.

In the survey, the majority of students said they liked attending classes at Sho-Ban because of the sense of belonging and family they feel there.

It's a feeling that makes students feel safe and cared for, and it's unique. It's just one more thing that school officials can capitalize on during their journey toward success.

Sho-Ban is a school with unlimited potential and it's good to see it headed in the right direction.

#### FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **Eastern Idaho high school grads earn degrees**

#### **SCHOLARLY STARS**

#### **KIM NOTEBOOM**

Tell us about your scholarly stars -- students who have earned significant academic achievements. E-mail Kim Noteboom at [knoteboom@postregister.com](mailto:knoteboom@postregister.com) or send a fax to 529-9683.

High school seniors weren't the only ones graduating last month.

Last month, Nina Rose Smith graduated from Montana State University with distinction, meaning she completed 20 credit hours of honor courses and maintained a 3.5 grade point average, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering.

While perusing her undergraduate degree, Smith was part of the advisory board for women in engineering and was a member of two honor societies -- the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society,

and Eta Kappa Nu Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society.

Smith also participated in the Air Force ROTC program, so she earned a second lieutenant commission. She will report for active duty in August to Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where she will complete her master's degree.

Smith is the daughter of Nancy L. Smith and Nathan B. and Kathy Smith of Idaho Falls. She graduated from Hillcrest High School in 2003.

Idaho Falls native Joshua Davis also graduated with honors -- cum laude -- with an optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn.

Davis, the son of Bart and Shelia Davis of Idaho Falls, received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University-Idaho.

Fairview third-grader recognized for A.R. points

To earn more than 900 Accelerated Reading points, you have to read a lot of books -- just ask Austin Housley. He set a school record and maybe even a district record by earning 900.3 AR points.

Austin, a third-grader at Fairview Elementary School, isn't sure how many books he read, but most books are only a few points. Bigger books such as the last Harry Potter book are worth 25 points, Fairview librarian Mary Campbell said.

"He would check out four or five books at a time," Campbell said. "He's a voracious reader."

Austin has a simple answer for how he earned so many points.

"I read when I'm bored," he said.

Also helping him is a family rule that the Housley kids can't watch a movie based on a book without reading the book first.

"As the youngest of four boys, it was killing him when his older brothers watched the (Harry Potter) movies and he had to leave the room," said Austin's mom, Cathy Housley. "So he started the first Harry Potter. By the time he had read the fifth, though, he, of course, wanted to keep going because he had to know what was going to happen to Harry."

Now the youngster says his favorite book is "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows."

"It's cool," he said.



